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Appl. No. 09/955,916
Amendment dated November 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 23-28 remain in the application. Claims 23-25 are amended.

The courtesy of a telephone interview with Examiner Brown on November 1, 2004, is gratefully acknowledged. All claim rejections were discussed and the following were found to be acceptable resolutions.

Claims 23-28 stand rejected under 25 USC §112 1st paragraph on the basis that it is not clear what the "draw portion" of the sleeve refers to. During the telephone interview it was resolved that Fig. 6 shows a suitable structure identified by reference numeral "34" as a fold or draw portion of the sleeve. The specification was previously amended at page 10, line 6, to include an antecedent reference to element 34 as a "drawn" portion.

Claims 23-28 stand rejected under 25 USC §112 2nd paragraph, as follows:

Claim 23, line 7, was not clear if the sheet is part of the elongated strip or a separate sheet. This has been clarified by canceling "said" in the phrase, "a sheet of said flexible . . ."

Claim 23 was not clear as to what the "drawn" portion refers to. As noted above, this has been clarified to be element 34 of Fig. 6.

Claim 24 was not clear in identifying whether the attachment element is attached to ends of the strip or ends of the pocket. This has been clarified by adding, "said elongated flexible strip of" to claim 24, line 3, and canceling, "the flexible and" at the same line.

Claim 25, line 2, recited the unclear phrase, "is of a type." This phrase has been canceled and language of the claim is suitably conformed.

Claims 26-28 lacked antecedent basis for references to first and second bands. Antecedent basis was clarified by adding "compression" to claim 25 in the phrase, "having first and second opposite compression band portions extending . . ."

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In light of the above, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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